TOTELCOM COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

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# LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### IV. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

### General (Continued) A.

- The Company may not disconnect a Lifeline Program customer's service for the non-payment of toll charges. However, the Company may implement toll blocking, at no charge, if the customer incurs a significant balance of unpaid toll bills. The Company will inform the customer, by direct mail, of this change to their service due to the customer's non-payment of toll charges. If the customer pays all outstanding toll charges, the Company shall remove mandatory toll blocking at no charge.
- Upon subscribing to the Lifeline Program, a customer will be offered a subscription, at no charge, to toll blocking service (in exchanges where technically available) which denies the customer access to the long distance telecommunications network; however, the customer is under no obligation to accept the subscription to toll blocking.
- 7. The Lifeline Program rate reductions will not be available on a retroactive basis unless approved by the Public Utility Commission of Texas or the Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA).
- 8. Lifeline customers will not be assessed the monthly local number portability charge which is subject to National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Tariff No. 5.

# B. Designated Lifeline Program Services

The Company shall offer voice telephony services that provide the following functionalities as designated Lifeline Program services:

- Voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent
- 2. Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to the customer
- Access to emergency services
   Toll blocking service

Effective: April 2, 2012 By: Toney Prather

Title: President

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### LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### IV. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

# C. Eligibility Requirement

1. Qualifying Low-income (Eligible) Customer Criteria

An eligible customer shall be defined as an individual whose annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines or in whose household resides a person who receives or has a child who receives benefits from at least one of the following programs:

- a. Medicaid
- b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP" f/k/a Food Stamps)
- c. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- d. Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) or Section 8
- e. Low-Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- f. Health benefits coverage under the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- g. National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- h. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

The Lifeline Program rate reductions will be provided per eligible customer. The Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA) will provide a list of eligible customers to the Company each month.

# 2. Obligations of the Customer

a. Customers whose annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines or who participate in FPHA or LIHEAP programs may self-enroll for Lifeline Program benefits by completing an application form and returning it to LIDA. LIDA will send a blank application upon customer request. LIDA can be reached at 1-866-4LITEUP. Current customers receiving benefits under Medicaid, SNAP, SSI or CHIP will be subject to the Lifeline Program automatic enrollment procedures as provided by the LIDA unless they provide a written request to the LIDA to be excluded from the Lifeline Program.

b. A customer who is eligible for the Lifeline Program but does not have telephone service at the time the LIDA provides its eligibility list to the company, shall be responsible for initiating a request for the Lifeline Program from the Company.

By: Toney Prather Effective: June 1, 2012

Title: President

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### LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

# IV. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

# C. Eligibility Requirement (Continued)

3. Obligations of the Company

LIDA will provide a list of eligible customers to the Company on a monthly basis. Upon receipt of the list, the Company shall begin reduced billing for those customers within 30 days.

### 4. Discontinuance of Service

a. Discontinuance of Lifeline Discounts for customers automatically enrolled. The eligibility period for automatically enrolled customers is the length of their enrollment in Texas Health and Human Services Commission (THHSC) benefits plus a period of 60 days for renewal. Automatically enrolled customers will have an opportunity to renew their THHSC benefits or self-enrollment with LIDA upon the expiration of their automatic enrollment.

b. Discontinuance of Lifeline Discounts for customers who have self-enrolled. Individuals not receiving benefits through THHSC programs, but who have met Lifeline income qualifications, are eligible to receive the Lifeline discount for seven months, which includes a period of 60 days during which the customer may renew their eligibility with LIDA for an additional seven months.

By: Toney Prather Effective: April 2, 2012

Title: President

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### LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

# IV. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

# D. Deposit and Credit Requirements

- 1. The Company shall be prohibited from charging a service deposit in order to initiate the Lifeline Program if the eligible customer voluntarily elects to receive toll blocking.
- The Company may charge a service deposit if the eligible customer denies subscription to toll blocking upon subscribing to the Lifeline Program.
- 3. In instances where the Company may require a service deposit, the same credit verification procedures and deposit regulations used for all applicants who apply for service with the Company are also applicable to eligible customers for the Lifeline Program.

### E. Service Connection Charges

- Service connection charges do not apply to eligible customers with existing, qualifying service converting to the Lifeline Program.
  - 2. Service connection charges do apply when:
- a. Existing eligible customers request additional non-qualifying services at the time Lifeline Program reduced billing is initiated.
- b. New customers (those without existing local exchange access service) eligible for the Lifeline Program establish service.
- c. Customer makes subsequent moves or changes after initial connection to the Lifeline Program.

By: Toney Prather Effective: April 2, 2012

Title: President

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### LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

# IV. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

# F. Lifeline Program Rate Reduction

# 1. Implementation

The Company shall provide reduced billing to all Lifeline Program eligible customers within its service area in accordance with the Commission's Substantive rules.

In instances where a customer inquires about participation in the Lifeline Program, the Company shall provide contact information for LIDA.

By: Toney Prather Title: President

Effective: April 2, 2012

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

IV. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

F. Lifeline Program Rate Reduction (Continued)

2. Amounts

The Company shall apply Lifeline Program rate reductions, per eligible customer, as described below.

Monthly Rate Reduction

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a. Federal Reduction applied to
Federal Subscriber Line
Charge and Residential 47.C.F.R
Local Exchange Access Line Charge Section 54.403

 Maximum State Reduction to Residential Local Exchange Access Line Rate \$3.50

By: Toney Prather Title: President

Effective: April 2, 2012

# **REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

# TOTELCOM COMMUNICATIONS LLC (SAC 442060) ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026 ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY